153. Certain needs of the Shencottah taluk.

Mr. S. A. Hariharakrishna Aiyar (Member, Shencottah taluk) first dwelt upon the need for supplementing the water supply of the existing tanks and channels by constructing a big reservoir or several small reservoirs at suitable sites and by enlarging the capacity of the existing tanks by the acquisition of foreshore lands. In that connection the Member also urged the need for the restoration of the Klanganad Valiakulam. He also suggested that the wet tax for the Kanni crop and the fishing lease amount be calculated on the basis of the average for the past ten years. He then pleaded for the improvement of the following village roads to facilitate the transport of manure and agricultural produce:—

The village road from Kesavapuram to Tekkumedu, being a village road very useful to the ryots of the locality, should be improved.

The village road from Puliyara to the tunnel was also very useful and deserved improvement. A good portion of the road had been encroached upon by the local inhabitants. Those encroachments should be removed before endeavours were made to put the road in order. The third road was the one from Munnuvaykal to Karkudi. A portion of the road was being maintained at present. The road stood in need of extension so that it might be of use to a large section of the agricultural population. The fourth item of work requiring attention was the road from Kulattuppuzha Chowkey to Nedinji. A portion of that trace was being maintained by the P. W. D. A bridge across the Hanumannadi would be very useful. The fifth road which had to be put in order was the one from Aykudi to Balamartandapuram. The improvement of the road from Elattur to Achamputur was also urged.

The Member then brought to the notice of the Government the need for the construction of two bridges—one across the Samburvadakara river and the other at Pudur—to facilitate means of communication and for the transport of manure and agricultural produce.

The Member then proceeded to deal with the need for grazing grounds for the cattle of the town of Shencottah. He said that at present the only available ground was the Manpottai hill situated to the north-west of the town. Considerable encroachments having taken place, the available portion had become unfit for grazing purposes, and the Member therefore thought that it was necessary to acquire new lands.

The Member then spoke about the necessity of a cattle-stand for the town of Shencottah. There was no site at present. The Member suggested that a portion of the lands proposed to be acquired by the filling up of the Perumalkulam tank might be utilised for the purpose. The Member suggested that action might be taken in the matter under the urgency clause of the Land Acquisition Regulation. In conclusion, the Member requested—

(1) that reserved and unreserved forests be freely opened for the grazing of cattle without any restriction in the matter of license ;

(2) that an irrigation board be created on the lines of the one at Nanjinad ;

(3) that small agricultural farms be opened in the villages ;

(4) that the sale of manure be entrusted to Provertikars so as to afford better facilities for the agriculturists ; and

(5) that a trace be opened from Bhagavatipuram railway station to the Puliyara agricultural farm.

President's reply.—Improvements to the existing tanks and channels in the eastern and western sections have been taken up by the Government. They have now called for fresh proposals to consider the whole system together. The matter is under correspondence with the Chief Engineer and the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner. As soon as orders are passed, the works will be taken up after a conference between the officers of the Revenue Department and the ryots. In the meantime, the Chief Engineer has been asked to carry out such works as are important. The restoration of the Klankad Valiakulam has been ordered to be taken in hand immediately.

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With regard to the Klankad Valiakulam, the Chief Engineer says that it has not been repaired for the past 10 years, as you said. Your suggestion regarding wet tax for the Kanni crop and fishing lease on the basis of average income for the last 10 years will be considered.

As regards the road from Kesavapuram to Tekkumedu, an estimate is under preparation.

The question of encroachment on the road from Puliyara to the tunnel will be referred to the Revenue Department.

Member.—It should be repaired wherever necessary.

President.—We are referring the question to the Revenue Department and that department is attending to the work of encroachment. You may make a separate representation pointing out what exactly is the sort of work that should be done for making the road useful to you.

About the road from Munnuvaykal to Karkudi, this road is at present maintained for about 1 1/8 miles and it requires extension. It is also an agricultural road and I do not know whether the people will be willing to give lands free for its improvement.

Member.—Dry lands can be got at a cheap price.

President.—The cost is estimated at Rs. 3,000.

Member.—Taking the usefulness of the road into consideration, the price, I think, is cheap.

President.—Your suggestion will be considered. As regards the road from Kulattuppuzha Chowkey to Nedinji lands, the existing trace is not maintained by the P. W. D.

Member.—There is a road and it is cartable to some extent.

President.—There also the work is estimated to cost Rs. 3,000.

Member.—If the Government are not prepared to take up the work of the whole road, the extent now cartable may be taken up by the P. W. D. and properly maintained by putting up a small culvert at the entrance to the Kulattuppuzha Chowkey.

President.—Yes. Your suggestion is noted. The road which leads to the headworks of the Nallurkal will be taken up.

To provide a bridge over the Hanumannadi is a costly affair.

Member.—The bridge over Landa canal is highly necessary.

President.—The Chief Engineer will be asked to look into it.

As regards the bridge over the Aykudi-Balamartandapuram road the Chief Engineer will be asked to investigate and report at an early date.

Member.—The question of the road from Shencottah to Sampurvadakara is highly necessary. This road is a metalled one and it should be properly maintained.

President.—Very well.

As for a bridge across the Sampurvadakara river, the construction of a foot-bridge will be taken up.

An estimate has been called for for the construction of a bridge at Pudur.

The suggestion for opening a trace from Bhagavatipuram railway station to the Puliyara agricultural farm is noted.

The construction of a road from Elattur to Achamputur will be taken up next year.

With regard to grazing grounds, your suggestions will be looked into. The Peishkar will be asked to take the necessary steps to remove the encroachments, and have the land demarcated.

As regards a cattle-stand for the Shencottah town, the resolution of the Municipality has not come up to the Government. When it comes up, the matter will be considered.

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Your suggestions for suspending the grazing rules and for modifying them will be referred to the Conservator of Forests.

Your suggestions regarding irrigation boards, the opening of a small agricultural farm and the sale of manure by Provertikars are noted, as also those relating to the collection of revenue.

Your suggestion as regards encroachment proceedings at Sampurvadakara will be considered.

In regard to your suggestion that the wet lands irrigated by the Perumalkulam tank should be acquired under the urgency clause of the Land Acquisition Regulation, I may tell you that arrangements are being made accordingly.

154. Some needs of the Kunnattur taluk.

Mr. C. T. Geevarghese Mutalali (Member, Kunnattur taluk) said that the bulk of the population of his taluk were agriculturists. Observation had shown that agriculture as an industry was steadily declining in the State. He stated that Government would be able to stop such decline in the Kunnattur taluk by restoring the irrigation tanks in the taluk and throwing cross bunds over the Valiatodu and filling it up. He said that Government would not be put to much expense on account of those works and that the people were prepared to contribute their share if Government would have the work carried out through the Agricultural Department or a committee. It was also pointed out that the bund would be only 15 to 20 ft. in length and that it was not likely to cost much.

The tanks requiring improvement in his taluk were:—

(1) the Putiaril *chira* near the English School;
(2) Cutcherrykulam near the vernacular school and the Cutcherry;
(3) Pulikkunnan *chira* to the west of the Travellers' Bungalow; and,
(4) Chantakkulam to the west of the Parakkode market.

The Member next said that the only means of communication in the taluk were the M. C. road and the Kayankulam-Punalur road. The people were experiencing great difficulties on account of the absence of village roads. He suggested that the two following roads might be improved this year:—

1. The road from the 13th mile in the Kayankulam-Punalore road to Anayadi.

2. The road from Chikkakadavu in Kallada to the Netiavila temple.

He represented that the toll-gate at Adur was causing great hardship to the poor and annoyance to the public. He prayed that it might either be shifted from its present site, or that the right of levying tolls there might be leased out annually as in the case of the toll-gates at Kuzhittura and other places.

The establishment of another toll gate at the junction within 7 furlongs of the former one was iniquitous. He requested that the new toll-gate might be abolished.

The Member next spoke about the exclusion of arable lands from the reserve forests included in the Kunnattur taluk. In point of agriculture his taluk was far backward and in the olden days the people of that taluk were chiefly dependent on *malavaram* cultivation for their livelihood which had become now impossible. But the order of the Government that lands available for paddy cultivation in the reserved forests of the State might be thrown open for registry was a source of relief to the people. He understood that Government had appointed committees of officials and non-officials for some of the taluks of the State in view to the selection of swampy areas from the reserves, but no such committee had, so far, been appointed for his taluk. The Member requested that a committee might be appointed for examining the Anakkulam and Koduman Reserves and selecting the lands within them which were available for assignment.

The Member next said that the Munsiff's court at Adur was established about 11 years ago, as a result of repeated representations in the Assembly, and that for want of a proper building that court was ordered to be located in the Satrom in

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